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10/808,036	03/24/2004	Dan Scott Johnson	100201135-1	5669

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EXAMINER
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PENG, FRED H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2426

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/16/2010

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/808,036	<b>Applicant(s)</b> JOHNSON, DAN SCOTT	
	<b>Examiner</b> FRED PENG	<b>Art Unit</b> 2426	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 May 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-15,17,18,20,21 and 27-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-15,17,18,20,21 and 27-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                    | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

Art Unit: 2426

1. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 05/14/2010, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New grounds of rejection set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below.

#### **DETAILED ACTION**

2. Claims 1, 3-15, 17-18, 20-21 and 27-33 are pending in this application.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 29 recites the limitation "the first presentation device" in ...wherein the A/V program data displayed in the menu on the first presentation device is based on .... There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Art Unit: 2426

4. Claim 30 recites the limitation "the sink component" in ...transmit a stream of A/V menu data to the sink component to enable the user .... There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ellis et al (US 2008/0189742).

As to claim 29, Ellis discloses an audio/video (AV) component networking system (FIG.2a), comprising:

a source component (16);

a presentation device (24); and

a sink component (22) adapted to control presentation of A/V program data received from the source component on the presentation device, the sink component adapted to transmit a command to the source component to control display of an A/V menu data stream on the presentation device (FIG.7; FIG.12; request a program guide and display on the remote device 24), wherein the A/V program data displayed in the menu on the first presentation device is based on a suitability of a format of the desired A/V program data for the presentation device (FIG.21; Para 102-103; Para 118; Para 136-138; certain format is established for the remote access device such as for video or audio play or internet browsing).

As to claims 30-32, Ellis discloses an audio/video (A/V) component networking system (FIG.2a), comprising:

a source component (16) adapted to transmit a stream of A/V menu data (FIG.7) to the sink component (22) to enable the user to identify, access or control menu functions or parameters of the source component;

a presentation device (24);

and a sink component adapted to control presentation of A/V program data received from the source component on the presentation device (FIG.12), wherein the sink component is adapted to transmit a command to the source component to control display presentation of the A/V menu data stream on the presentation device, and wherein the stream of A/V menu data comprises a continuous or periodic data flow, thereby enabling automatic updating of A/V menu data provided to the user via the sink component (Para 37; Para 120), and wherein the sink component is adapted to filter the A/V program data available from the source component based on a type of the presentation device coupled to the sink component (Para 102; filter A/V program data based on the presentation being a screen monitor for playing television program or an audio device for playing music).

6. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)/103(a) as being anticipated by Ellis et al (US 2008/0189742) or unpatentable over Ellis et al (US 2008/0189742) in view of Hunter et al. (US 2002/0056118).

As to claims 33, Ellis inherently discloses performing a registration operation to register the presentation device 24 with the sink component 22 when the remote access device 24 requesting for program guide access through the remote access link (FIG.14).

Art Unit: 2426

Alternatively, Hunter teach this (see Hunter, [0142] through communication with the on-screen GUI (of the presentation device) the user station, sink, realizes information about the user preferences for display on the presentation device, hence registers the device).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the system of Ellis with the system of Hunter in order to allow the system to correctly recognize the device data is sent to for display therefore no delay in user interaction with the data occurs (see Hunter, [0142]).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 11-13, 17, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams, Jr. (US 6202211) and Accarie et al. (US 2003/0048757) in view of Ellis et al (US 2008/0189742).

As to claim 1, Williams discloses an audio/video (AV) component networking system, comprising (see Williams, fig. 4):

A plurality of source components each including AV program data (see Williams, fig. 3, col. 5, ll. 34-39, receiving from a source component from remote within another network, see col. 6, ll. 7-11, and the cable system (fig. 5) into a number of tuners (see col. 1, ll. 60-64) fig. 4 and 5 shows a stereo, television, cable box as plurality of sources); a first presentation device and a second presentation device (see Williams, fig. 4 and 5, TVs and stereo, col. 5, l. 55-col.6, l. 65); and a sink component disposed remote from at least one of the plurality of source components, the sink component adapted to display on the first presentation device a menu presenting the AV

Art Unit: 2426

program data available from each of the plurality of source components, the sink component adapted to control presentation of desired AV program data selected from the menu of AV program data and received from the corresponding source component on the second presentation device (see Williams, fig. 4, STB is a sink distinct from source in the server, adapted to control, see Williams, col. 6, ll.43-49), the sink component adapted to transmit a command to the source component to control displaying of an AV interface of the source component for display on the presentation device (see Williams, col. 6, ll.43-54, if cable box is set correctly (controlled by STB) cable converter box output streams to TV via STB control, In fact, the cited reference reads on the claimed limitation, as the channel (an interface providing AV data) from the cable converter box may be selected by user (see Williams Jr., col. 6, ll.43-54) In fact, "selecting the appropriate mode" (see Williams Jr., col. 6, ll.43-54) shows enablement to control a menu interface. The channel setting (an inherent menu manipulation) is controlled by the STB, which shows enablement of a user to control a menu interface.

In fact, Accarie also shows enablement of the user to control a menu interface, Williams Jr. shows the sink remote from the storage system, Accarie notes a sink remote from storage (see Accarie, [442], terminal v. local node v. VTR, represents separate units). Williams teaches control of data, but is unclear on control of menu interface from the source component; Accarie, who discloses a network communication system does teach control of menu interface of the source component for display on the presentation device (see Accarie, [0395-0447], all stored commands (a menu) of a local terminal (a source) is displayed on a screen for user selection (displayed on presentation device, [0447])).

Furthermore, Ellis discloses a program guide menu presenting an aggregation of the A/V program data available from each of the plurality of source components (FIG.2a, 16; FIG.3, 31, 32; Para 33-34; Para 52; Para 102; A/V program data from various sources such as tune to broadcast television, tune to a music channel or internet browsing or play back recoded programs from local storage device such as DVD).

Art Unit: 2426

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the systems of Williams, Accarie and Ellis to allow the user to access the menu of control functions of various remote source components (see Accarie, [0453]) and allow the user to access important features of the user's in-home program guide from a remote location and set program guide settings for those features (see Ellis Para 10).

Ellis further discloses use of menu on one presentation device, and receiving from corresponding source on second presentation device (FIG.20; Para 15; Para 99; Para 102; order a pay per view program from one remote device and receiving from corresponding source on another local device or enable a program by a parent from one remote device and children can receive corresponding source from another device; or provide a user with the opportunity to access audio from a digital music channel through the program guide and play the audio on a speaker or an audio device).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the system of Williams and Accarie with the system of Ellis so a selection of a program such as pay programs or rated program can be better controlled by the user; Para 100).

As to claim 3, Williams, Accarie, Ellis (as combined ) disclose the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to enable the user to acces the AV menu interface associated with the source component corresponding to the desired AV program data (see Accarie, [0395-0447], all stored commands (a menu) of a local terminal (a source) is displayed on a screen for user selection (displayed on presentation device, [0447] is access to the AV menu interface (see Accarie, [0398]), it is inherent that user would be given access to component of desired data; also see Ellis of Para 102).

As to claim 5, Williams, Accarie and Ellis (as combined in claim 1) disclose the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to transfer the AV program data via a plurality of



Art Unit: 2426

different types of communication networks (see Accarie, [0249-252], switching between AV networks of different types (1355/1394) transferring data, the storage means is capable of handling different packet types [0257]).

As to claim 7, Williams, Accarie, Ellis (as combined) disclose the system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of the source components includes a satellite receiver source component, a digital versatile disk (DVD) source component, a compact disc (CD) source component, a computer, and a cable source component (see Williams, fig. 5 and col. 5, ll. 35-45, cable source component).

As to claim 11, Williams, Accarie, Ellis (as combined) disclose the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to control a menu function associated with the AV program data (see Williams, col. 6, ll. 43-54, cable box channel set by IR command, a menu function associated with the AV program data from cable box (a source) (from remote control unit, controlled by STB) cable converter box output streams to TV via STB control; also see Ellis of Para 102).

As to claim 12, Williams, Accarie, Ellis (as combined) disclose the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to access an AV program data library of the source component corresponding to the desired AV program data (see Accarie, [0371], a local node (sink) receives program data (from source) and stores in RAM, if follows that access would be to the desired data).

As to claim 13, Williams discloses an audio/video (AV) component networking method, comprising (see Williams, fig. 4 and col. 3, ll. 20-60):

controlling, via a sink component, presentation of desired AV program data selected from the menu and received from a remote source component on a presentation device (see Williams,

Art Unit: 2426

col. 6, ll. 43-50, STB provides the tuned TV signal to TV in selected mode, it is inherent that desired data would be selected, and subsequently received); and controlling, via a command issued by the sink component to the source component, displaying of an AV interface of the source component for presentation on the presentation device (see Williams, col. 6, ll. 43-54, cable box channel set by IR command (from remote control unit, controlled by STB) cable converter box outputs stream to TV via STB control). Williams teaches control of data, but is unclear on control of menu interface from the source component; Accarie, who discloses a network communication system does teach control of menu interface of the source component for display on the presentation device (see Accarie, [0395-0447], all stored commands (a menu) of a local terminal (a source) is displayed on a screen for user selection (displayed on presentation device, [0447])).

Furthermore, Ellis discloses a program guide menu presenting an aggregation of the A/V program data available from each of the plurality of source components (FIG.2a, 16; FIG.3, 31, 32; Para 33-34; Para 52; Para 102; A/V program data from various sources such as tune to broadcast television, music channel or internet browsing or play back recoded programs from local storage device such as DVD).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the systems of Williams, Accarie and Ellis to allow the user to access the menu of control functions of various remote source components (see Accarie, [0453]) and allow the user to access important features of the user's in-home program guide from a remote location and set program guide settings for those features (see Ellis Para 10).

Ellis further discloses use of menu on one presentation device, and receiving from corresponding source on second presentation device (FIG.20; Para 15; Para 99; Para 102; order a pay per view program from one remote device and receiving from corresponding source on another local device or enable a program by a parent from one remote device and children can receive corresponding source from another device; or provide a user with the opportunity to

Art Unit: 2426

access audio from a digital music channel through the program guide and play the audio on a speaker or an audio device).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the system of Williams and Accarie with the system of Ellis so a selection of a program such as pay programs or rated program can be better controlled by the user; Para 100).

As to claim 17, Williams, Accarie, Ellis (as combined in claim 13) disclose the system of claim 13, wherein controlling, via a command issued by the sink component, comprises transmitting the command to at least one of the group consisting of a satellite receiver component, a digital versatile disk (DVD) component, a cable component, a computer, and a compact disk (CD) component (see Williams, col. 6, l1.43-54, cable box channel set by IR command (from remote control unit, controlled by STB) cable converter box outputs stream to TV via STB control).

As to claim 27, Williams disclose an audio/video (AV) component networking method, comprising (see Williams, fig. 4 and col. 3, l1.20-60): receiving, via the sink component, the desired AN program data from a corresponding source component, and (see Williams, col. 6, l1.43-50, STB receives the tuned TV signal to TV in selected mode and transmits it on); presenting the desired AV program data on a second presentation device (see Williams, col. 6, l1.43-54, cable box channel set by IR command (from remote control unit, controlled by STB) cable converter box outputs stream to TV (separate from STB) via STB control); and Williams teaches control of data, but is unclear on control of menu interface from the source component;

Accarie, who discloses a network communication system does teach control of menu interface of the source component for display on the presentation device (see Accarie, [0395-0447], all stored commands (a menu) of a local terminal (a source) is displayed on a screen for user selection (displayed on presentation device, [0447])).

Art Unit: 2426

Furthermore, Ellis discloses a program guide menu presenting an aggregation of the A/V program data available from each of the plurality of source components (FIG.2a, 16; FIG.3, 31, 32; Para 33-34; Para 52; Para 102; A/V program data from various sources such as tune to broadcast television, music channel or internet browsing or play back recoded programs from local storage device such as DVD).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the systems of Williams, Accarie and Ellis to allow the user to access the menu of control functions of various remote source components (see Accarie, [0453]) and allow the user to access important features of the user's in-home program guide from a remote location and set program guide settings for those features (see Ellis Para 10).

Ellis further discloses use of menu on one presentation device, and receiving from corresponding source on second presentation device (FIG.20; Para 15; Para 99; Para 102; order a pay per view program from one remote device and receiving from corresponding source on another local device or enable a program by a parent from one remote device and children can receive corresponding source from another device; or provide a user with the opportunity to access audio from a digital music channel through the program guide and play the audio on a speaker or an audio device).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the system of Williams and Accarie with the system of Ellis so a selection of a program such as pay programs or rated program can be better controlled by the user; Para 100).

As to claim 28, Williams, Accarie, Ellis (as combined) disclose the method of claim 27, further comprising:

receiving an input by the sink component corresponding to a menu interface presented on the first presentation device (see Williams, col. 6, ll.43- 54, cable box channel set by IR command (from remote control unit--input to STB (sink and presentation device)) and transferring

Art Unit: 2426

the input to the source component corresponding to the desired AV program data (see Williams, col. 6, ll.43-54, cable converter box (source) outputs stream to TV based on channel selection from STB control, it is inherent that desired data would be input to corresponding source component).

8. Claims 4, 6, 8, 14, 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams, Jr. (US 6202211), Accarie et al (US 2003/0048757) and Ellis et al (US 2008/0189742) and further in view of Hunter et al. (US 2002/0056118).

As to claim 4, Williams, Accarie, Ellis (as combined in claim 1) disclose the method of claim 1,

The references of Williams, Accarie and Ellis are unclear on further comprising performing a registration operation to register the source component corresponding to the desired A/V program data with the sink component; however, Hunter does teach this (see Hunter, [0163-0165], the sink registers the CD or another type of media player for playback, it is inherent that user would be given access to component of desired data).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the system of Williams, Accarie and Ellis with the system of Hunter in order to recognize multiple sources of programming data allowing the end user variety in his entertainment choice (see Hunter, [0164]).

As to claim 6, Williams, Accarie, Ellis (as combined) disclose the system of claim 1, The references of Williams, Accarie and Ellis are unclear on wherein the sink component is adapted to perform a registration operation to register a format of the AV program data available from the plurality of source components; however, Hunter does teach this (see Hunter, [0163-0165], the sink registers the format of a CD or another type of storage media for playback).

Art Unit: 2426

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the system of Williams, Accarie and Ellis with the system of Hunter in order for program format to be variable from the content sources, making for a more robust entertainment system (see Hunter, [0164]).

As to claim 8, Williams, Accarie, Ellis and Hunter (as combined) disclose the system, The references of Williams, Accarie and Ellis are unclear on wherein the sink component is adapted to perform a registration operation to register the presentation device with the sink component; however, Hunter does teach this (see Hunter, [0142] through communication with the on-screen GUI (of the presentation device) the user station, sink, realizes information about the user preferences for display on the presentation device, hence registers the device).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the system of Williams, Accarie and Ellis with the system of Hunter in order to allow the system to correctly recognize the device data is sent to for display therefore no delay in user interaction with the data occurs (see Hunter, [0142]).

As to claim 14, they are analyzed similar to claim 4.

As to claim 18, it is analyzed similar to claim 3.

As to claim 15, it is analyzed similar to claim 6.

9. Claims 9, 10, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams, Jr. (US 6202211 B1) in view of Accarie et al. (US 2003/0048757) in view of Ellis et al (US 2008/0189742) in view of Williams et al. (US 2004/0019908 -- hereafter known as Chris Williams).

Art Unit: 2426

As to claim 9, Williams, Accarie, Ellis (as combined ) disclose the system of claim 1, Chris Williams further teaches the sink component is adapted to present to the user a filtered aggregated listing of the AV program data available from each of the plurality of source components based on a format of the AV program data available from each of the plurality of source components (see Chris Williams, fig. 5, each source has a different data format, the prior art references read on the claimed limitation, for example, at least, in the following illustrations: There is a presentation device that shows the menu of AV data for the user and also a presentation device that displays the AV data selected for the user to experience (see Williams, fig. 2, col. 4, ll.13-65). There is a presentation device that shows the menu of AV data for the user and also a presentation device that displays the AV data selected for the user to experience (see Ellis Para 102-103). There is a presentation device that shows a menu of AV data for the user and a presentation device that displays the AV data selected for the user to experience (see Accarie, fig. 10, 11, [406-408], at local node and terminal chosen)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the system of Williams, Accarie, Hunter and Ellis with the system of Chris Williams in order to allow the end user the pleasure of entertainment from several various sources (see Chris Williams, [0026]).

As to claim 10, Williams, Accarie, Ellis (as combined) disclose the system of claim 1, Ellis and Chris Williams both teach the sink component is adapted to filter the AV program data available from plurality of source components based on a type of the second presentation device coupled to the sink device (see Chris Williams, fig. 5, the audio data will be reproduced on an audio presenter, speaker system of fig. 1; also see Ellis of Para 102).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the system of Williams, Accarie, Hunter and Ellis with the system of Chris Williams in order to allow the end user the pleasure of entertainment from several various sources (see Chris Williams, [0026]).

Art Unit: 2426

As to claim 20, it is analyzed similar to claim 9. As to claims 21, they are analyzed similar to claim 10.

### ***Response to Arguments***

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-15, 17-18, 20-21 and 27-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

11. Claims 1, 3-15, 17-18, 20-21 and 27-33 are rejected.

### ***Correspondence Information***

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRED PENG whose telephone number is (571)270-1147. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 09:30-19:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hirl can be reached on (571) 272-3685. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Art Unit: 2426

/Fred Peng/

Examiner, Art Unit 2426

/Joseph P. Hirl/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2426

August 11, 2010